

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 806

By Burks

A RESOLUTION to recognize Larry Self on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their careers in public service; and

WHEREAS, Larry Self is one such estimable person who is a co-founder of the Cookeville Rescue Mission and has served for thirty-eight years as its director; and

WHEREAS, Larry Self has taken a much deserved retirement, retreating from his full-time duties in March of 2014; and

WHEREAS, over the many long years of service to the homeless in the Putnam County area of the Upper Cumberland Region, Larry Self was flanked by his life partner and beloved wife, Betty, who joined him in retirement; and

WHEREAS, the mission opened in 1975 in a small building on Cedar Street after Mr. Self and the late U.L. Whitson received God's call to create a place where men without homes could stay and be sheltered from the natural elements; and

WHEREAS, in 1981, the mission moved to the location it occupies today on Jefferson Avenue. At that time, the facility belonged to Whilwhite Baptist Church; however, the mission was fortunate to purchase the facility and enjoyed God's blessings in paying off the sixty-four thousand dollar purchase in full within four years; and

WHEREAS, in subsequent years, the mission expanded to include a single men's lodge, a family lodge, a clinic, a general store, and a farm residential program; through God's assurances and the toil of people such as Larry and Betty Self, countless men and women had their lives changed at the Cookeville Rescue Mission; and

WHEREAS, the mission's guests experienced positive changes in their physical living conditions, but more importantly, they traveled a pathway to God's promise of salvation through Jesus Christ; this pathway was made available to them through the presence of Larry and Betty Self in their lives; and

WHEREAS, even as Mr. Self has now retired from daily work, he knows his heart still longs to meaningfully serve the downtrodden; therefore, he and Mrs. Self will continue leading the mission's Marsh Chapel services, participating in the singing and assisting with the regular radio program; and

WHEREAS, Larry and Betty Self have been indispensable resources to their community and region, as they have spent their careers in nonprofit endeavors to serve the homeless and combat the insidious perils of homelessness; their lives' work exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of true Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, in tribute to them, the 15th day of March was declared Founder's Day at the Cookeville Rescue Mission, and on that date each year thereafter, the day will be celebrated in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Self; and

WHEREAS, throughout their estimable careers, Larry and Betty Self demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of their colleagues and a grateful public; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we extend to Larry Self our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement, and we extend those same wishes to Betty Self, as she joins him in their well-deserved time of repose. We applaud their many years of service to the homeless in their community and region and extend to them our best wishes for success in all their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.